

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

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OPINION 556

Designation under the Plenary Powers of a type species
in harmony with accustomed usage for the nominal
genus *Labeceras* Spath, 1925 (Class Cephalopoda,
Order Ammonoidea)



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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 556

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Professor Enrico TORTONESE (*Museo di Storia Naturale "G. Doria", Genova, Italy*) (16th December 1954)

OPINION 556

DESIGNATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS OF A TYPE SPECIES IN HARMONY WITH ACCUSTOMED USAGE FOR THE NOMINAL GENUS "LABECERAS" SPATH, 1925 (CLASS CEPHALOPODA, ORDER AMMONOIDEA)

RULING :—(1) Under the Plenary Powers (a) all selections of type species for the nominal genus *Labecerass* Spath, 1925 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea) made prior to the present Ruling are hereby set aside, and (b) the nominal species *Labecerass bryani* Whitehouse, 1926, is hereby designated as the type species of the above genus.

(2) The under-mentioned generic name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name Number 1351 :—

Labecerass Spath, 1925 (gender : neuter) (type species, by designation under the Plenary Powers in (1)(b) above : *Labecerass bryani* Whitehouse, 1926)

(3) The under-mentioned specific name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 1632 :—

bryani Whitehouse, 1926, as published in the combination *Labecerass bryani* (specific name of type species of *Labecerass* Spath, 1925).

(4) The under-mentioned family-group name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 266 :—

LABECERATIDAE Spath, 1925 (type genus : *Labecerass* Spath, 1925)

I. THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 24th July 1956 Mr. C. W. Wright (*London*) submitted the following application for the designation by the International Commission under its Plenary Powers of a type species in harmony with accustomed usage for *Labecerass* Spath, 1925 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea), a nominal genus considered to have been established by its author on a misidentified type species :—

Proposed use of the Plenary Powers to designate a type species in harmony with accustomed use for "Labecerass" Spath, 1925 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea), a genus based upon a misidentified type species

By C. W. WRIGHT
(*London*)

The object of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its Plenary Powers under the Special Procedure prescribed by the International Congress of Zoology (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.*, 4 : 158-159) for use in connection with nominal genera based upon misidentified type species to designate a type species in harmony with accustomed usage for the genus *Labecerass* Spath, 1925 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea).

2. The genus *Labecerass* was established by Spath (1925 : 179, 191) as "ex Whitehouse MS" with three nominal species included in it, *L. plasticum*

Spath, *L. taylori* (Etheridge) and *L. laqueus* (Etheridge). Spath designated as "genotype" a specimen "BM C25355, the suture line of which I have figured in plate 31, fig. 7" as "*Labeceras* sp. nov.". Since this type designation was not of a nominal species it was invalid.

3. In 1926 Whitehouse published the paper referred to by Spath as being in manuscript. In it he described (: 226) *Labeceras* as a new genus and designated as genotype "*Labeceras papulatum* sp. nov.". Spath's establishment of the genus in the previous year was valid despite the invalid designation of a type species, since the date was before 1931. Consequently Whitehouse's designation as type species of a nominal species which was not one of Spath's originally included species was invalid.

4. In 1938 Roman (: 52) designated as type species "*Labeceras taylori* Etheridge" and gave as reference "(Rec. Australian Museum, t. VII, pl. XLVI, 1909)". This designation of one of Spath's originally included species would seem to be valid. However, Whitehouse had already (1926: 227) pointed out that Etheridge had in 1909 been mistaken in identifying, under the name "*Crioceras taylori* Etheridge fil." his specimens from the Albian Tambo Series with *Ancyloceras taylori* Etheridge fil., 1892 (: 498, pl. 42, fig. 13) from the much earlier Roma Series. Whitehouse (1926) had consequently renamed Etheridge's 1909 specimens as *Labeceras bryani* (: 227, pl. xxxix, fig. 4a, b).

5. Roman, by his reference, made it clear that he intended by "*L. taylori* Etheridge" the taxonomic form represented by Etheridge's 1909 figures, which, unlike the form in Etheridge's 1892 figures, falls within the genus *Labeceras* as described by Spath. The form represented in the 1892 figures cannot at present be determined generically with certainty but it belongs to some genus of Aptian ANCYLOCERATIDAE. To treat this form as type species of the now well known and clearly circumscribed Albian genus *Labeceras*, as would be necessary on a strict application of the Rules, would cause quite unnecessary confusion, by making it necessary to synonymise *Labeceras* with some genus as yet undetermined of ANCYLOCERATIDAE and to give a new name to the taxonomic group now known as *Labeceras*, which is moreover the type genus of the family LABECERATIDAE Spath, 1925 (: 191).

6. One of the species originally included by Spath should obviously be the type species. *L. plasticum* Spath and *L. laqueum* (Etheridge fil.) are unambiguous¹ nominal species but *L. bryani* Whitehouse, 1926 (= *Crioceras taylori* Etheridge fil., 1909 non *Ancyloceras taylori* Etheridge fil., 1892 ; = *Labeceras taylori* (Etheridge) in Spath, 1925) is without doubt the taxonomic group that was in the mind of Roman when he designated "*L. taylori* Etheridge" as the type species of *Labeceras*.

7. I therefore suggest that it would be most in accord with the spirit of the Rules and would cause least confusion if *L. bryani* Whitehouse were

¹The applicant has explained that the expression "unambiguous" as employed in paragraph 6 of the application was designed to show that the two species concerned were clearly not intended by Roman to typify the genus *Labeceras* Spath, while the species which Spath did so intend is ambiguous in the sense explained by the references given in parentheses in lines 3, 4 and 5 in paragraph 6 and by paragraph 5. This was made clear in a note (Note 5) annexed to the Voting Paper issued in this case.

designated as type species and I invite the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature—

- (1) under the Special Procedure prescribed by the International Congress of Zoology for use in the case of genera considered to have been based upon misidentified type species, to use its Plenary Powers to set aside all selections of type species for the genus *Labecerases* Spath, 1925, made before the Ruling now asked for and to designate *Labecerases bryani* Whitehouse, 1926, to be the type species of the foregoing genus ;
- (2) to place on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :—
Labecerases Spath, 1925 (gender : neuter) (type species by designation under the Plenary Powers as proposed in (1) above : *Labecerases bryani* Whitehouse, 1926) ;
- (3) to place on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—
bryani Whitehouse, 1926, as published in the combination *Labecerases bryani* (specific name of type species of *Labecerases* Spath, 1925) ;
- (4) to place on the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology* :—
LABECERATIDAE Spath, 1925.

References

- Etheridge, R. (fil.), 1892 : in Jack, R. L. & Etheridge, R. *The Geology and Palaeontology of Queensland and New Guinea* : 1-768. Atlas pl. 1-68, Brisbane
- , 1909 : " Lower Cretaceous Fossils from the Sources of the Barcoo, Ward and Nive Rivers, South Central Queensland ", Part 2—Cephalopoda, *Rec. Australian Mus.* 7 : 135-165, pl. 30-49
- Roman, F., 1938 : *Les Ammonites jurassiques. et crétacées* : 1-554, pl. 1-53, Paris
- Spath, L. F., 1925 : " On Upper Albian Ammonoidea from Portuguese East Africa ", *Ann. Transvaal. Mus.* 11 (3) : 179-200, pl. 28-37
- Whitehouse, F. W., 1926 : The Cretaceous Ammonoidea of Eastern Australia, *Mem. Queensland Mus.* 8 (3) : 195-242, pl. 34-41

II. THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. Registration of the present application : Upon the receipt of Mr. Wright's application the question of the possible use of the Plenary Powers for the purpose of designating a type species in harmony with established usage for the genus *Labecerases* Spath, 1925 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea) was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.)1154.

3. Publication of the present application : The present application was sent to the printer on 11th March 1957 and was published on 28th June of the same year in Part 7 of Volume 13 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Wright, 1957, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 13 : 213-215).

4. Issue of Public Notices : Under the revised procedure prescribed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 51-56), Public Notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was given on 28th June 1957 (a) in Part 7 of Volume 13 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (the Part in which Mr. Wright's application was published) and (b) to the other prescribed serial publications. In addition, such Notice was given to four general zoological serial publications and to three palaeontological serials in Europe and America.

5. Support received from D. T. Donovan : On 6th September 1957 Dr. D. T. Donovan (*Department of Geology, University of Bristol, Bristol*) addressed to the Office of the Commission the following letter in support of Mr. Wright's application (Donovan, 1957, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 13 : 308) :—

I am writing to support Mr. C. W. Wright's application to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to designate *Labecerus bryani* Whitehouse, 1926, as the type species of the genus *Labecerus* Spath, 1925.

6. No Objection Received : No objection to the action proposed in the present case was received from any source.

III. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

7. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(57)76 : On 30th December 1957 a Voting Paper (V.P.(57)76) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, "the proposal relating to the generic name *Labecerus* Spath, 1925, as set out in Points (1) to (4) in paragraph 7 on pages 214 to 215 of Volume 13 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*" [i.e. in the Points numbered as above in paragraph 7 of the application reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*].

8. The Prescribed Voting Period : As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 30th March 1958.

9. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(57)76 : At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P. (57)76 was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following twenty-two (22) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Holthuis ; Mayr ; Boschma ; Hering ; Mertens ; Prantl ; Vokes ; Lemche ; do Amaral ; Bonnet ; Dymond ; Jaczewski ; Hankó ; Bodenheimer ; Key ; Bradley (J.C.) ; Hemming ; Sylvester-Bradley ; Stoll ; Tortonese ; Kühnelt ; Riley ;

(b) *Negative Votes :*

None ;

(c) *On Leave of Absence, one (1) :*

Miller ;

(d) *Voting Papers not returned, one (1) :*

Cabrera.

10. Declaration of Result of Vote : On 31st March 1958, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(57)76, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 9 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

11. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present "Opinion" : On 23rd May 1958 Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(57)76.

12. Original References for Generic and Specific Names : The following are the original references for the generic name and the specific name placed on the *Official Lists* for taxa of the genus and species category respectively by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

bryani, *Labeceras*, Whitehouse, 1926, *Mem. Queensland Mus.* **8** : 227, pl. xxxix, figs. 4a, b

Labeceras Spath, 1925, *Ann. Transvaal Mus.* **11** : 179, 191

13. Original Reference for a Family-Group Name : The following is the original reference for the family-group name placed on the *Official List* of names of taxa belonging to the family-group category by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

LABECERATIDAE Spath, 1925, *Ann. Transvaal Mus.* **11** : 191

14. Compliance with Prescribed Procedures : The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

15. "Opinion" Number : The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Five Hundred and Fifty-Six (556) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Twenty-Third day of May, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Eight.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING

